4 bottling plants, 2 at Ajmer, and 1 each at Bikaner and Jaipur during the last three years in the State of Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) Due consideration for security is kept in view while setting up the bottling plants.

Expansion of Panipat Refinery

3755. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Panipat refinery expansion work was to take place in the year 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether it is also a fact that IOC had entered into an agreement with the Japanese company Marubeni for setting upto 350 MW power generation plant alongside the refinery; if so, the reasons for delay; and

(d) by when this project will start functioning and produce the desired power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Panipat refinery expansion project was approved by the Board of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in August, 1999.

Subsequently, the Haryana Government imposed Haryana Local Area Development Tax (HLADT) with effect from 5.5.2000 on various goods including crude oil entering Haryana State. The matter for exemption of HLADT and grant of sales tax incentives was taken up with Haryana Government by IOCL. The matter has since been resolved and a gazette notification in this regard has been published on 10.4.2002.

(c) Yes, Sir. The main reason for the delay of the project is its being linked to the refinery expansion project.

(d) Based on the present status of the project, it is expected to be commissioned in about 39 months time from the date of financial closure.

Leasing of oil fields to private companies

3756. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have leased discovered oil fields to private companies for development;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantum of money ONGC would have earned from these discovered wells till date, if these wells have been given to it for development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main reasons to offer discovered oil fields for private participation were:—

(i) Expeditious augmentation of oil and gas production by developing discoveries,

(ii) Tiding over the resource crunch, and

(iii) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) techniques.

(c) Since, ONGC did not operate these fields after taking over by Joint Ventures/private companies and since the field parameters, including production profile, the fiscal terms and conditions and the development strategy are dynamic in nature having impact on revenue and economics of the fields, the quantum of money ONGC would have earned cannot be quantified.